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THE PROGRESS OF SCIENCE

THE ATLANTIC CITY MEETING OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

THE seventieth scientific assembly of the American Medical Association, held at Atlantic City during the second week of May, was notable as a celebration of the service of medicine to the nation in time of war. The attendance of members was about five thousand, nearly all of whom had taken an active part in national work, either as officers of the army and navy or in other directions. When the armistice was signed there were 35,000 medical officers in the army and 3,000 in the navy—more than one fourth of the entire profession of the country.

At the Atlantic City meeting there was a general opening session at which the president, Dr. Alexander Lambert, of New York City, gave the annual address and delegates from foreign nations were introduced. At a second general session national organizations, the activities of which have definite medical interest, were represented by speakers, each of whom gave a ten-minute address on the general subject of American medicine and surgery as it responded in service under war conditions. There were represented the Army, the Navy, the Public Health Service, the Red Cross, the Association of Military Surgeons, the American Health Association, the National Tuberculosis Association and the American College of Surgeons. The scientific papers and discussions of the meeting were presented before the fifteen sections into which the scientific assembly is divided.

The American Medical Association is by far the strongest existing organization of scientific and professional men. It is based on component state and county societies whose total membership is over eighty-two thousand. Its excellent weekly journal has a circulation of nearly the same size. The total number of physicians in the United States is less than 150,000, so that more than half of them are members of their organization. The National Educational Association has a membership of only about 10,000 from among some 500,000 teachers. Teachers are now forming unions in many cities, but the American Medical Association and the state and county medical societies have long accomplished the same objects, attested by the high standards of the profession and its great service to the nation.

MEDICINE AS A DETERMINING FACTOR IN WAR

THE part played by medicine in modern warfare was reviewed by Dr. Lambert in his presidential address before the American Medical Association. The subject was in part treated historically to show the great change which has resulted from advances in medicine, surgery and public health.

In earlier wars the decision has often depended more on the wastage of the armies by disease than on their fighting. In the Thirty Year War, which began in 1618, the battle casualties were only a few thousand, but typhus, smallpox, bubonic plague, dysentery and scurvy, with famine added to pestilence, reduced the population of Germany from sixteen to four million.

The Crimean War, 1854–1856, is said to show the highest loss from battle casualties among the Russians, and from disease among the French, of all wars of which we possess accurate records. The battle death rate among the British was 69 per thousand per year, among the

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FOREIGN DELEGATES TO THE MEETING OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Among the delegates were: Sir St. Clair Thomson, Major General Sir Bertrand Dawson, Lt.-Col. Shirley Murphy, Sir William Arbuthnot Lane, Sir Arthur Newsholme, Dr. Ernest W. Hey Grove, Mrs. Eleanor Garton, and Col. W. T. Lister, England; General Melis, Col. A. Depage, Dr. P. Nolf, Prof. J. Duesberg, Capt. Van Der Velde, and Capt. René Sand, Belgium; Dr. Maurice Heitz-Boyer, and Dr. C. Mullon, France; Dr. Pedro Chutro, Buenos Aires; Dr. Juan Guiteras, Dr. Emilio Martinez, and Dr. Francisco M. Fernandez, Cuba; Dr. Israel Holmgren, and Dr. Sven Ingvar, Sweden; Dr. Peter F. Holst, Norway; Dr. John Constas, and Dr. Caroussos, Greece; Dr. Asajiro Kammimura, and Dr. Ryuzo Kodama, Japan.

French 70, and among the Russians 120. The disease death rate was 230 per thousand among the English, 341 among the French, and 263 among the Russians.

In the Franco-Prussian War of 1870, the Prussians reached the highest standard of protection against disease that any army had yet attained. The ratio of their battle casualties was 55 per thousand to a rate of death from disease of 25. The French, hampered by the quartermaster control of medical organization, in a demoralized, defeated army, suffered battle casualties of 68 per thousand and a rate of death from disease of 141. Among the French prisoners of war, smallpox broke out as a plague, about 14,000 cases occurring in Germany and about 25,000 in the interned army in Belgium. Smallpox followed as an epidemic in Germany, causing the death of 170,000 persons after the war.

Dr. Lambert reported that the death rate in our Civil War of killed and dying of wounds as 33 per thousand, the disease death rate as 65. In the Spanish War the death rate from battle was 5 and the death rate from disease 30.4 per thousand. The statistics of the American Expeditionary Forces, with an average strength of 975,716, reveal a rate of death from wounds in action of 31.2 per thousand and a death rate from disease of 11.2. Of those who died of disease, pneumonia claimed 9.1 per thousand.

In the Spanish-American War, 60.5 per cent. of all deaths were caused by typhoid, and in the present war 85 per cent. were caused by pneumonia. The pneumonia was mainly the result of the world-wide epidemic of influenza and the mortality of some American cities exceeded that of the camps. If the death-rate from pneumonia is subtracted the total death-rate from disease in the army at home and abroad is only 2.2 which is apparently less than the death rate of the men in civil life.

Dr. Lambert maintained that the importance of the Medical Department of the Army is such that it should be adequately represented on the General staff. In the concluding part of his address he drew the logical deduction from the medical lessons of the war, that this nation, through its present medical knowledge, has within its grasp the power to control communicable, and hence preventable, diseases, and that there must be established a nation-wide controlling organization for this purpose, a National Department of Health.

JOSEPH BARRELL

The science of geology has had great losses during the past year or so in the deaths of Grove Karl Gilbert, George F. Becker, William Bullock Clark, Henry Shaler Williams, Samuel Wendell Williston, and now a man of the greatest promise, Joseph Barrell. All of them have been leaders in geology or paleontology, and Barrell stood as high as the highest.

Joseph Barrell was born at New Providence, N. J., December 15, 1869, and died in New Haven, after one week of illness, on May 4, 1919. He leaves a wife and four sons. He was descended from George Barrell, a Puritan who migrated from Suffolk, England, and settled at Boston in 1637, and was named after his great-grandfather, a patriot and wealthy shipowner of Boston.

Barrell was thoroughly trained in engineering at Lehigh University, and later in geology and zoology at Yale. He took three degrees in course at Lehigh, B.S., E.M. and MS., and in 1916 that university gave him her doctorate of science. On this occasion President Drinker said: "Joseph Barrell—Distinguished scientist, a recognized